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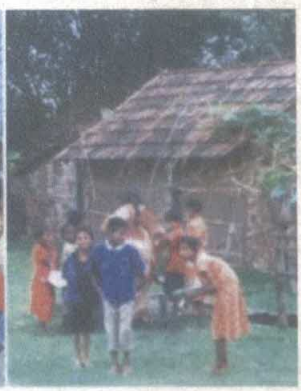
# COOKED MID-DAY MEAL PROGRAMME

44/Gift

## - A DOCUMENTATION

## ON TEN PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN NADIA DISTRICT, WESTBENGAL

Sridebi DasGupta, Research Fellow (Grade-II)
State Council of Educational Research and Training (WB)
25/3, Ballygunje Circular Road, Kolkata-700 019



This study has been undertaken on behalf of School Education Department, Government of West Bengal as a part of NUEPA's work on Documentation of Best practices in implementation of Mid-Day Meal Scheme in one district of West Bengal.

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The researcher is also thankful to all the Head teachers and Assistant teachers of the surveyed primary schools of Nadia district.

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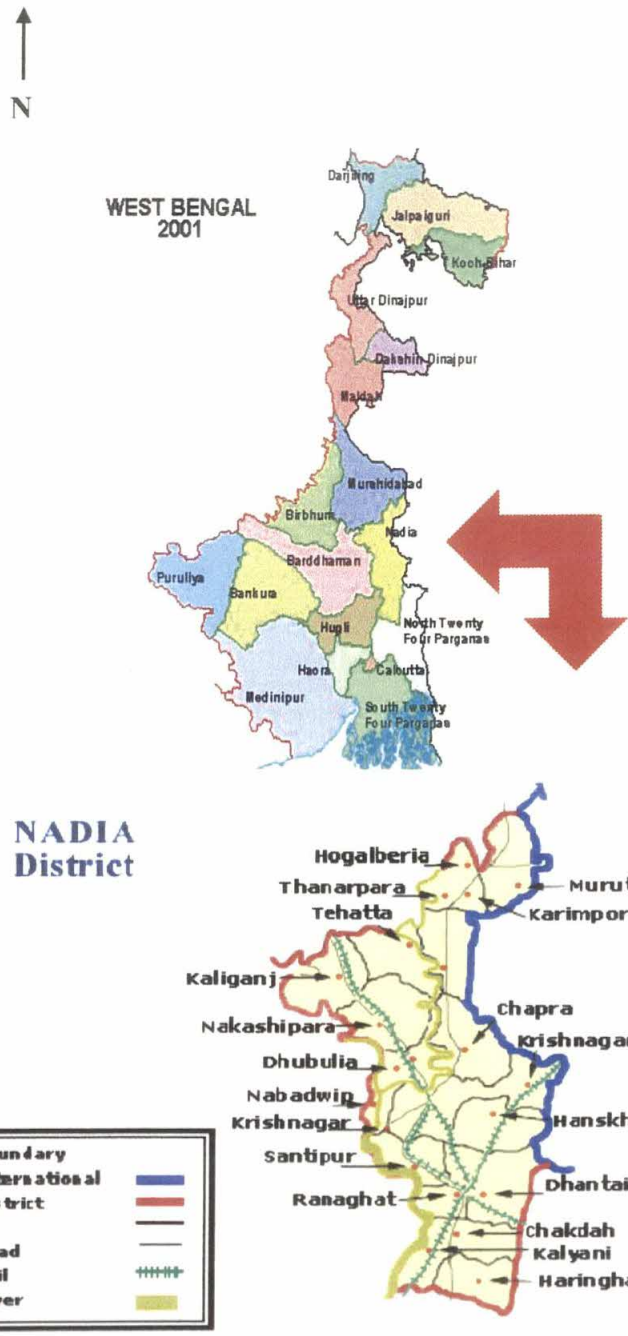
# LOCATION




**Source:**
OFFICE OF THE REGISTRAR
GENERAL, INDIA
rgoffice@censusindia.net
Created on 9th November 2001

Nadia is situated between 22°53″ & 24°11″ North latitude and 88°09″ & 88°48″ East longitude and is about 390027 Sq Kms. in area. This District is linear in shape with North-South orientation. The geographical boundary of Nadia district comprises Bangladesh in the East, Bardhaman and Hugli district on the West, Murshidabad district on the North & North West and North 24 Parganas towards South & South East.

**Source:**
http://nadia.nic.in/District_Profile/district_profile.html

## 1. Background

The Centrally Sponsored Mid-Day Meal Scheme was launched on 15th August 1995 in India with a view to boost Universalization of Primary Education (classes-I toV) and also to enhance the nutritional status of the primary school going children. Accordingly, all children in Government, Local Body and Government-Aided primary schools were to be provided cooked meal/ processed food every full school day. Accordingly, Government of India (GOI) provided food grains free of cost and the states were to provide the costs of other ingredients, salaries and infrastructure. However, most states (due to budgetary crunch) instead of providing cooked meal/processed food to its primary school-going children, gave 3 Kilograms of food grains per child per month to the children with 80% attendance in school.

On 28 November 2001, the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India directed all the States and the Union Territories to implement Mid-Day Meal Scheme (MDMS) providing every child in every Government and Government–Aided primary schools with cooked Mid-Day Meal instead of dry rations with a minimum content of 300 calories and 8-12 gms of proteins each day of the school for a maximum of 200 days in a year. This scheme was to be implemented across India from June 2002.

In West Bengal, provision of Cooked Mid-Day Meal (CMDM) to the students of primary schools started from January 2003 in nine districts of the State viz., Jalpaiguri, Uttar Dinajpur, Dakshin Dinajpur, Cooch Behar, Murshidabad, Paschim Medinipur, Purulia, Bankura and Birbhum. Prior to this, the students were each given rice grains @ 3 Kg per month for ten months in a year.

The School Education Department is the Nodal Department for execution of the Scheme in West Bengal. The District Magistrates and Block Development Officers/Sub-Divisional Officers are the Nodal Officers in charge of effective implementation of the CMDM Scheme at the district and block levels/Municipality respectively. The Village Education Committee, Parent Teacher Association, Mother Teacher Association execute the Scheme in primary schools and Sishu Siksha Kendras. [Shishu Shiksha Kendras (SSKs) and Madhyamik Shiksha Kendras (MSKs) are the education centers which provides alternative system of schooling to the children at primary and upper level respectively. They are under the administrative control of the Panchayats and Rural Development Department of West Bengal with financial support from Paschim Banga Sarva Shiksha Mission (PBSSM).]

During 2002-03, 1100 primary schools of the State with an enrolment of 1,76,495 students were covered and the total expenditure on MDMS was Rs 1,62,09,000/-.

During 2003-04, 6000 primary schools with an enrolment of 9,51,225 students were covered and the total expenditure was Rs 17,63,47,025/-on this account.

During 2004-05, 68,508 schools and Sishu Shiksha Kendra's (SSKs) with an enrolment of 91,84,070 students were covered. The total expenditure being Rs 161,74,73,300/-.

During the year 2005-06, 69,658 schools and SSKs with an enrolment of 91,39,756 students were covered under the scheme. The total amount spent on MDMS was 387,93,46,916/-.

In 2006-07, the coverage increased to 69,808 schools and SSKs with an enrolment of 91,95,381 students and the total amount expended was Rs 521.71 crores.

During 2007-08, 68,352 schools/SSKs and Madhyamik Shiksha Kendras (MSKs) along with an enrolment of 90,46,706 students were provided MDM.

During 2008-09, 70,018 schools/SSKs with a proposed enrolment of 96,70,999 students are scheduled to be provided with Mid-Day Meal.

Government of India (GOI) has identified 223 Blocks (as on 1st January 2008) in thirteen districts of West Bengal as Educationally Backward Blocks (EBBs) and has introduced MDMS upto class VIII in 1900 schools covering about 7,38,901 students at the upper primary level. From April 2008 onwards, it has extended the scheme to all the upper primary classes (classes VI-VIII) in the whole state.

Following tables [taken from National Programme of Mid-Day Meal in Schools (MDMS), Annual Work Plan & Budget, 2008-09, West Bengal] show the total expenditure related to CMDM Scheme over the past few years. Proposed expenditure for the current academic year is also shown in the tables given below.

**TABLE-1**
**PROPOSAL FOR FOOD GRAINS & COOKING COST– 2008-09**

| Category | Proposal for MHRD, GOI | | State |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Food grains (in Mt) | Cooking Cost (in Cr) | Cooking Cost (in Cr) |
| Classes (I-V) | 156224.65 | 275.69 | 182.49 |
| Classes (VI-VIII) | 127079.20 | 169.44 | 84.72 |
| Total | 283303.85 | 445.13 | 267.21 |

(Source: National Programme of Mid-Day Meal in Schools [MDMS], Annual Work Plan & Budget, 2008-09)

**TABLE-2**
**CONSTRUCTION OF KITCHEN-CUM-STORE FOR PRIMARY (CLASSES I -V)**

| Year | Fund released (in Cr) | Schools & SSK/AIE | Kitchen-cum-Store sanctioned (no. of schools) |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2006-07 | 148.75 | 74,698 | 24792 |
| 2007-08* | 0 | 74,993 | 0 |
| 2008-09(Proposed) | 320.14 | 78,149 | 53357 |

(Source: National Programme of Mid-Day Meal in Schools [MDMS], Annual Work Plan & Budget, 2008-09)

[* No fund was released during the year 2007-08 due to some administrative reasons as reported by the Department of School Education, GoWB.]

**TABLE-3**
**CONSTRUCTION OF KITCHEN-CUM-STORE FOR UPPER PRIMARY (CLASSES VI -VIII)**

| Year | Fund released (in Cr) | Schools& SSK/AIE | Kitchen-cum-Store sanctioned (no. of schools) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **2007-08** | 11.40 | 10,910 | 1900 |
| **2008-09(Proposed)** | 54.06 | 10,910 | 9010 |

(Source: National Programme of Mid-Day Meal in Schools [MDMS], Annual Work Plan & Budget, 2008-09)

**TABLE-4**
**PROCUREMENT OF KITCHEN DEVICES FOR PRIMARY (CLASSES I-V)**

| Year | Fund released (in Cr) | Schools & SSk/AIE | Kitchen Device sanctioned (no. of schools) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **2006-07** | 9.367 | 74,698 | 18,734 |
| **2007-08** | 9.649 | 74,993 | 19,298 |
| **2008-09(Proposed)** | 18.33 | 78,149 | 36,666 |

(Source: National Programme of Mid-Day Meal in Schools [MDMS], Annual Work Plan & Budget, 2008-09)

**TABLE-5**
**PROCUREMENT OF KITCHEN DEVICES FOR UPPER PRIMARY (CLASSES VI-VIII)**

| Year | Fund released (in Cr) | Schools & SSK/AIE | Kitchen Device sanctioned (no. of schools) |
|---|---|---|---|
| **2007-08** | 0.947 | 10,910 | 1894 |
| **2008-09(Proposed)** | 4.508 | 10,910 | 9016 |

(Source: National Programme of Mid-Day Meal in Schools [MDMS], Annual Work Plan & Budget, 2008-09)

The Cabinet of the State Government has sanctioned the following set up for managing, monitoring and supervision of Cooked Mid-Day Meal Scheme-

**TABLE-6**
**MANAGEMENT PERSONNEL**

| | |
|---|---|
| **State level** | 1-Project Director |
| | 1-Administrative Officer |
| | 1-Accounts Officer |
| | 1-MIS Coordinator |
| | -- Group 'D' |
| **District level** | 1-OSD in Charge |
| | 1- Accounts Officer |
| | 1-MIS Coordinator |
| | -- Group 'D' from DM's Office |
| **Block level** | A.I at Block level/Block level Supervisor |
| **School level** | SHG- One member responsible for accounts etc. |

(Source: National Programme of Mid-Day Meal in Schools [MDMS], Annual Work Plan & Budget, 2008-09)

341 new posts of Assistant Inspectors of schools (A.I./s) have been sanctioned by the Cabinet at the Block level for looking after this programme in addition to their normal duties. Till these posts are filled up, one Block level Supervisor would be engaged for each of the 341 Blocks of the State. Arrangements for manning the posts sanctioned by the Cabinet are going on and the monitoring structure would be commissioned soon.

**References:**

1.School Education Department, Government of West Bengal, A report on National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education, 2007-08

2. School Education Department, Government of West Bengal, National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education, 2006

3. School Education Department, Government of West Bengal, National Programme of Mid-Day Meal in Schools [MDMS], Annual Work Plan & Budget, 2008-09

4.State Council of Educational Research and Training (WB), A report on Impact of Mid-Day Meal Scheme in Primary Schools and Sishu Siksha Kendras of Five Districts of West Bengal

5. Wikipedea on Mid-Day Meal http://en.wikipedia.org

6.Paschimbanga Rajya Shishu Shiksha Mission, Annual Report 2006-07

## 2. About the work

The National University of Educational Planning and Administration (NUEPA) has undertaken a study on Documentation of Best Practices in the implementation of the Mid-Day Meal Programme in twenty States and two Union Territories. In West Bengal, the documentation work was taken up in Nadia district as per the recommendation of the School Education Department, GoWB.

## 3. Objective

The research objectives were:

a) To understand the roles and responsibilities of the programme management at all levels, with specific reference to the processes involved in these levels.
b) To identify best practices in the implementation of Cooked Mid-Day Meal Programme at the district level.
c) To identify best practices in the implementation of Cooked Mid-Day Meal Programme at the school level in the selected district.

## 3. Coverage

The study was conducted in ten primary schools in three Blocks of Nadia district from 16th June to 19th June 2008. The list of schools was prepared after detailed discussions with the Chairman, District Primary School Council, D.I/s (Primary Education), A.D.I/s (Primary Education) & A.I./ Council, Nadia. The names of the schools are given in the table below in the order in which they were visited.

| Sl. No. | Code | Name of the School | Block | Circle |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | S2 | Debagram Shibram Anandamoyee Primary School | Kaliganj | Kaliganj |
| 2. | S1 | Bharatpur Junior Basic Primary | Kaliganj | Mira |
| 3. | S9 | Mira Sahid Smaran Girl's Primary School | Kaliganj | Mira |
| 4. | S3 | Gabarkuli Primary School | Krishnanagar-II | Sadar |
| 5. | S4 | Udbastu Primary School | Krishnanagar-II | Sadar-I |
| 6. | S10 | Ashutosh Ghosh Smriti Primary School | Krishnanagar-II | Sadar-I |
| 7. | S5 | Rajendra Smriti G.S. Free Primary | Nakashipara | Nakashipara(E) |
| 8. | S6 | Dacca Colony G.S. Free Primary | Nakashipara | Nakashipara(E) |
| 9. | S7 | Khidirpur Natun para G.S. Free Primary | Nakashipara | Nakashipara |
| 10. | S8 | Galaidaripara Primary School | Nakashipara | Nakashipara(E) |

[Code number to the surveyed schools have been assigned for convenience of the preparation of this report.]

## 4. Methodology and Sample

The study was conducted through a set of four structured questionnaires for four different target groups viz., Head teachers, Community members, Guardians and Students of the selected primary schools. An interview schedule was also prepared for the concerned Government officials at the district level for obtaining relevant information on the ongoing Cooked Mid-Day Meal Scheme in the district. Preliminary data were collected from "Annual Work Plan & Budget, Mid-Day Meal Scheme 2008-09", published by Government of West Bengal (GoWB). Discussions were also held with concerned officials of the State and the District in this regard. Detailed survey was made in the 10 primary schools (kitchen, storeroom, eating place, toilets, drinking water facilities etc.,) to procure the data. The following table describes the distribution pattern of the respondents as obtained from the survey.

| Respondents | Total |
|---|---|
| Number of Head teachers | 10 |
| Number of Community members | 11 |
| Number of Guardians | 12 |
| Number of Students | 19 |

The other measures taken in this regard prior to the school visits are mentioned below:

1. Meeting with the Principal Secretary & the Joint Secretary, School Education Department, GoWB on 30th April 2008 for advice on selection of district for the study and for obtaining other relevant information.

2. Several discussions with Director, SCERT (WB) on the nitty gritty of the project.

3. Telephonic conversations with ADM-Development, Nadia on 2nd May 2008 with a request for providing necessary help in the selection of schools for the study. He was informed about the documentation work undertaken by NUEPA. Request was also made to the Principal, DIET Nadia in this regard. A list of 31 schools was obtained from DIET Nadia on 16th May 2008.

4. The Chairman, District Primary School Council (D.P.S.C), Nadia was contacted over telephone on 15th May 2008 with a request for his advice regarding the selection of primary schools for the study. The Chairman was apprised about the documentation work undertaken by NUEPA.

5. Meeting with the Chairman, D.P.S.C, D.I/s (Primary Education), A.D.I/s (Primary Education) on 22nd May, 2008 & 9th June 2008 for obtaining permission for visits to the identified schools in the district and for other necessary support (vide letter no 164/SCERT dated 11 June 2008). A list of 11 primary schools was obtained on 9th June 2008 from the Chairman, D.P.S.C, Nadia.

6. Meeting with ADM-Development, & District Planning Officer, Nadia on 22nd May 2008 for obtaining required information on Cooked Mid-Day Meal Scheme in the district. The district information on CMDM programme was obtained on 17th June 2008.

Visit to the selected schools of the district was undertaken with A.I./Council from 16th June to 19th June 2008.

SURVEYED SCHOOL

## 5. Findings of the survey

### 5.1 *Findings from the Head teachers*

**School profile**

A total of ten primary schools (6 Govt./Govt. sponsored & 4 Govt. Aided) were visited covering three Blocks of Nadia district from June 16-19, 2008. All these schools are day schools. The school hours are from 11A.M to 4 P.M.The total teacher strength in these schools was 48 with 62.5% male & 37.5% female teachers. Current number of students in the present academic year was reported as 2260 with 51.5% boys and 48.5% girls. Out of these 10 primary schools, only two schools have 6 classrooms, three schools have 5 classrooms, four schools have 4 classrooms and the remaining one has 3 classrooms. All the schools have their own pucca buildings. Eight schools state that space in the classroom is not a problem and they have adequate provision for drinking water, source being the tube well within the school premise. The number of tube wells in each school varied between one and two. In this regard 2 schools state that provision for drinking water in the school is not sufficient. It has been observed that only 4 of the surveyed schools have boundary walls, play ground and electricity connection. As regards the toilet facilities, 9 schools have separate toilets for students with the exception of one school which has a common toilet for both teachers and students. 6 schools have provisions for separate toilets for girl students as well as for teachers.

Table-H1 shows that out 10 surveyed schools, CMDMS started in 7 schools in 2004. However, in one school the programme started in 2003. Remaining 2 schools started running the programme from the year 2005. The Head teachers of all these schools state that Mid-Day Meal is not provided to the students during vacation. Head teachers of 8 schools also confirm that the scheme is not continued during any natural calamity but additional food items are provided to the students during special occasions like Saraswati puja, birth anniversaries of Ishwar Chandra Vidayasagar, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose etc. in all the schools.

**TABLE-H1**
**YEAR OF STARTING OF CMDMS IN SURVEYED SCHOOLS**

| Year of starting of CMDMS | Total no. of schools |
|---|---|
| 2003 | 1 |
| 2004 | 7 |
| 2005 | 2 |

## Details of provision of Cooked Mid-Day Meal

Head teachers of 9 schools have declared that MDM is given for 5 days a week (i.e., Monday to Friday) and 20 days a month. However in one school, MDM is occasionally given on Saturdays as well. The Block Development Office decides on the schedule for provision of MDM to the students. Meals are given during the tiffin break. Reportedly the time required for distribution and consumption of CMDM is 30-40 minutes for 3 schools. For 5 other schools, the time taken for this purpose is 40-50 minutes. The remaining 2 schools require more time to complete the entire process.

Head teachers of 9 schools say that all students take MDM and they feel very content and satisfied after having the meal. One school however reports that few of their students bring tiffin from home as they come from well-to-do families.

## CMDMS Management Committee

The present survey has revealed that all these schools have separate Management Committees for running the CMDM Scheme. The members of such committees are mostly the Head teachers, Assistant teachers, members from the Village Education Committee (V.E.C) and Mother Teacher Association (M.T.A). Sometimes members from the Parent Teacher Association (P.T.A) and Self Help Groups (S.H.Gs) are also included. Members are also nominated from the Gram Panchayat and Panchayat Samiti for this purpose. In 7 schools, meetings are held every month to discuss issues related to the implementation of the scheme. For the remaining 3 schools, members meet at three months interval.

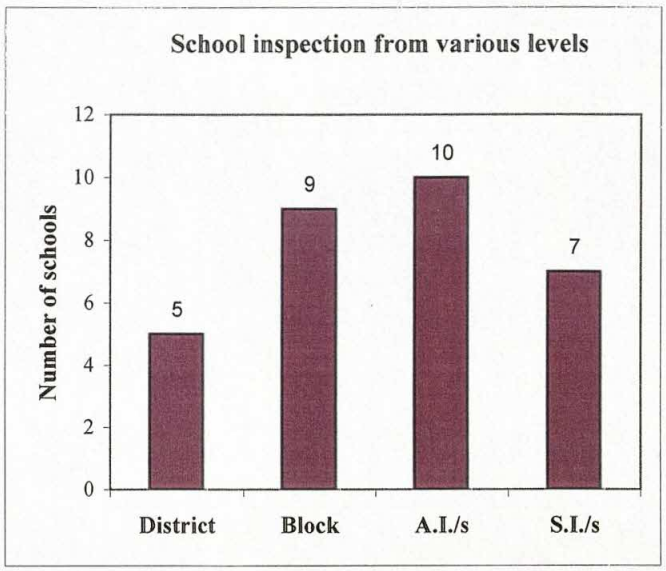
## Monitoring

Head teachers state that the monitoring of Cooked Mid-Day Meal Scheme from the District level has been carried out in 5 surveyed schools whereas the corresponding number is 9 as far as monitoring from the Block level is concerned (Table-H2). Effective role of the A.I (Assistant Inspector) and S.I (Sub-Inspector) of Schools in this regard is noted from the table given below.

**TABLE-H2**
**SCHOOL INSPECTION BY OFFICIALS DURING MDM PROGRAMME**

| Offices at different level | Number of schools | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Yes | No | NR | Total |
| District | 5 | 1 | 4 | 10 |
| Block | 9 | 0 | 1 | 10 |
| A.I./s | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| S.I./s | 7 | 0 | 3 | 10 |

FIGURE-1




## Role of Community members

As regards the role played by community members, Head teachers of all the surveyed schools said that full support and cooperation is received in the implementation of the Cooked Mid-Day Meal Scheme in the schools (Table-H3). The members discuss issues and problems related to CMDMS and endeavour to find a solution. Besides, assistance also comes in the form of cooking and distribution of the meal. However only few members go to the market to procure vegetables and other cooking supplies. Help from the community members in cleaning the eating area of the schools before and after the Mid-Day Meal has also been mentioned by few Head teachers.

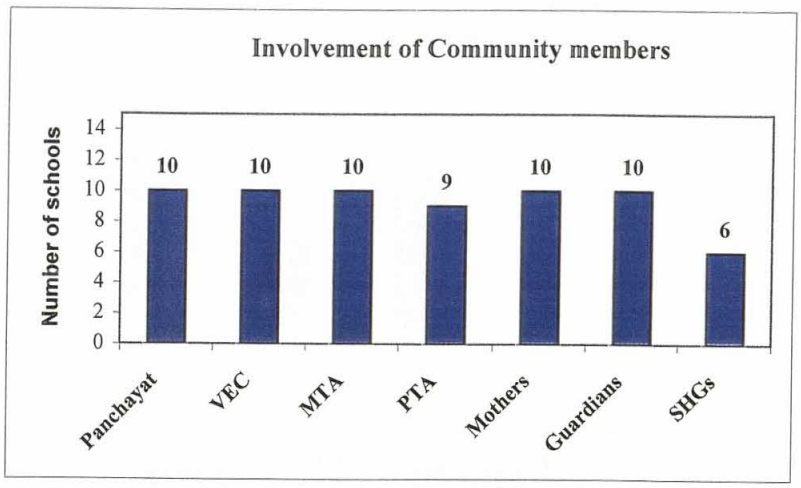
TABLE-H3
COOPERATION RECEIVED FROM COMMUNITY MEMBERS

| Category | Number of schools | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Yes | No | NR | Total |
| PANCHAYAT SAMITI | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| VEC | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| MTA | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| PTA | 9 | 0 | 1 | 10 |
| MOTHERS | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| GUARDIANS | 10 | 0 | 0 | 10 |
| SHGs | 6 | 1 | 3 | 10 |

TEACHERS ATTENDING STUDENTS DURING MDM

FOOD GRAINS STORED IN CLASSROOM

FIGURE-2




## Involvement of Teachers

Head teachers report that full support and cooperation is obtained from the Assistant teachers in running the MDM programme in their schools. Teachers supervise the cooking, serving procedure and attend students during their partaking of the meal. Sometimes they even go to the market for buying vegetables and other cooking ingredients. Assistance is also obtained in dealing with official matters related to the MDM Scheme. Discussions are held with the teachers in the selection of the menu for the MDM and other related issues. Students are made aware about the nutritive value of the food. Health and hygiene aspects like regular cutting of nails, washing of hands and feet with soap-water, waste disposal procedure etc. also feature in the discussion.

## Supply of Food Grains

4 of the surveyed schools have reported the receipt of good quality food grains (Table-H4). In case of receipt of poor quality of food grains, BDO or local dealers are contacted for its replacement. Head teachers report that it is the local dealer who supplies the requisitioned food grains to the schools. Food grains are received at regular intervals in the school. The cost of transportation of food grains from the godown to the schools is borne by the Block Development Office. Grains in schools are stored either in the classroom or in the store room (if available). In some schools it is also stored in the office room. Food grain sacks are either kept on benches or directly on the floor.

TABLE–H 4
DETAILS ON FOOD GRAINS RECEIVED FOR MDMS

| Number of schools | Quality of received Food grains | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Good | Satisfactory | Poor |
| | 4 | 6 | 0 |

## Fund Flow Mechanism

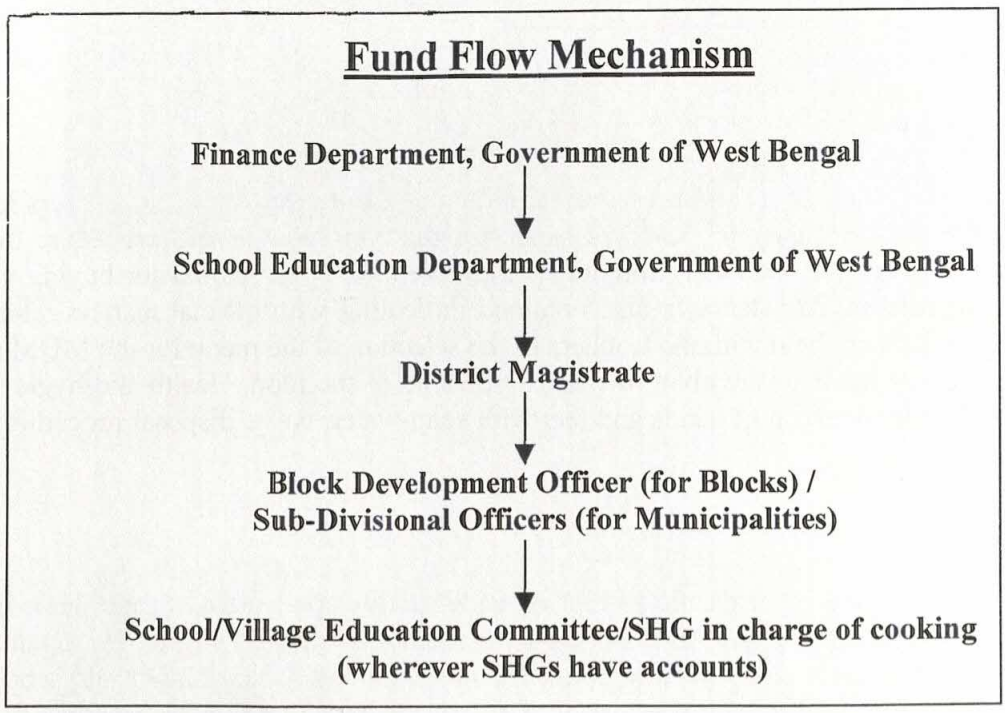
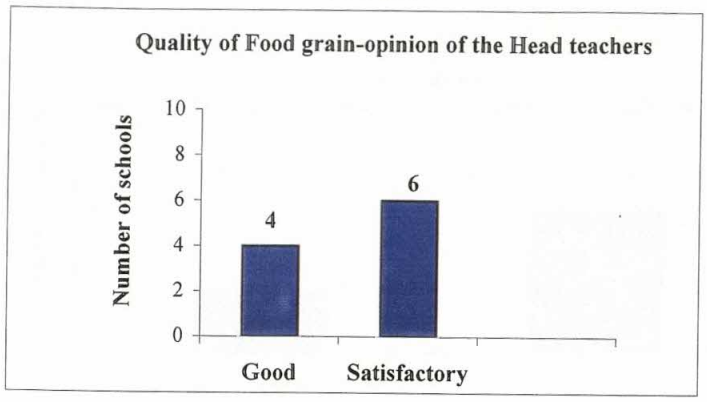


FIGURE-3




## Fund supply

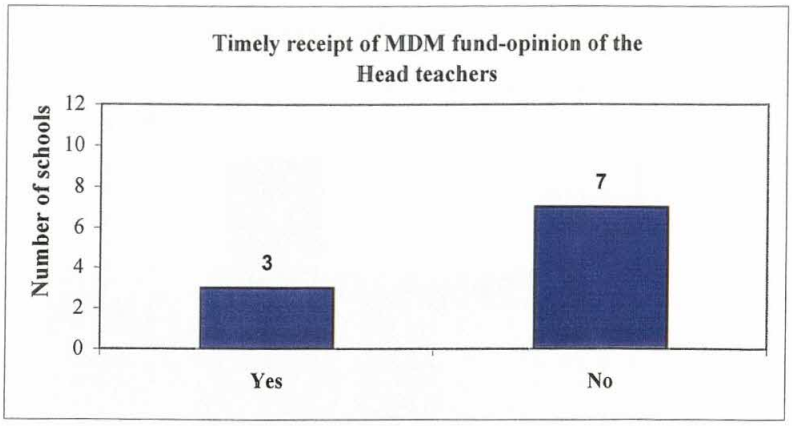
Table-H4 shows that 7 surveyed primary schools do not receive the allotted fund for running the Mid-Day Meal Scheme on time. Receipt of fund is delayed by an average of 2/3 months as alleged by the Head teachers. Reasons cited are administrative shortcomings, delay in encashment of received cheque in the bank, etc. However irregular fund availability does not substantially hinder the running of the scheme in the schools as stated by the surveyed Head teachers. The cooking ingredients, vegetables etc., are either bought from the market on loan or are paid for by the Head teachers, Assistant teachers and Management committee members. In one school, however, the scheme is stopped temporarily when faced with such crisis. No response was obtained in this regard from one surveyed school. Schools maintain separate stock registers for allotted food grains, purchased cooking ingredients, raw vegetables, fuel and cooking devices etc. Head teachers and to some extent the Assistant teachers maintain the accounts for all the MDM expenditures (buying of fuel, cooking ingredients, vegetables etc. Sometimes VEC members also help in account keeping.

TABLE-H4
TIMELY RECEIPT OF MDM FUND

| Number of schools | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Yes | No | NR | Total |
| 3 | 7 | 0 | 10 |

KITCHEN FOR COOKING MDM

FIGURE-4




## Cooking Arrangements

The kitchen forms a vital part in a school for cooking the Mid-Day Meal. The present survey reveals that 8 schools have separate permanent kitchens (Table-H5). However in 2 schools, kitchens are of a makeshift nature and are made up of thatched roofs and bamboo walls. Notably, Head teachers of 7 schools report that no grants have yet been received for construction of kitchens in their schools. Again out of these 10 surveyed schools, kitchens in 6 schools are located near the classrooms leading to a possibility of both fire and smoke hazard. Proper ventilation systems are urgently required in the kitchens. Two schools have taken initiatives on their own and have made arrangements for pipes for removal of smoke from the kitchen. Kitchens, permanent or otherwise, are regularly cleaned with disinfectants to make them free from pests, insects etc. Water for cooking Mid-Day Meal is drawn from the school tube well.

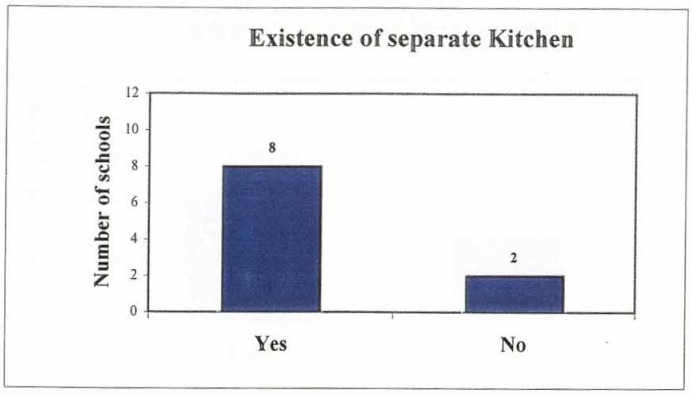
One school has plots within its premise wherefrom vegetables are grown for use in the Mid-Day Meal. Head teachers mainly shoulder the responsibility of going to the market daily for purchasing vegetables and other ingredients for cooking. Sometimes Assistant teachers, VEC members and parents help them in this. Local arrangements are made by some schools with nearby grocery shops and vegetable vendors for daily supply of the materials directly to the schools. Cooked food is always kept covered before it is served to the students.

TABLE–H 5
DETAILS ON PROVISION OF KITCHEN FACILITIES

| Number of schools | Existence of Separate Kitchen | | Nature of existing Kitchen | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Yes | No | Permanent | Temporary shed |
| | 8 | 2 | 8 | 2 |

SOURCE OF WATER IN SCHOOL

FIGURE-5




## Cooking staff

Staff engaged for cooking the Mid-Day Meal in the 10 surveyed schools is women who are mostly members from the SHGs. Local cooks, mostly women, are also sometimes engaged for this purpose. VEC and Panchayat members generally engage the cooks after consultation with the Head teacher. The number of cooks has been found to be two per school and their total remuneration is Rs 600/-per month. The cooks themselves do the serving of the cooked food to the students. In many schools (8 out of 10), Assistant teachers also take up the serving chore. Even Head teachers (3 out of 10 schools) involve themselves in this. Mothers (3 out of 10 schools) voluntarily come forward to serve the Mid-Day Meal.

## Drinking water supply

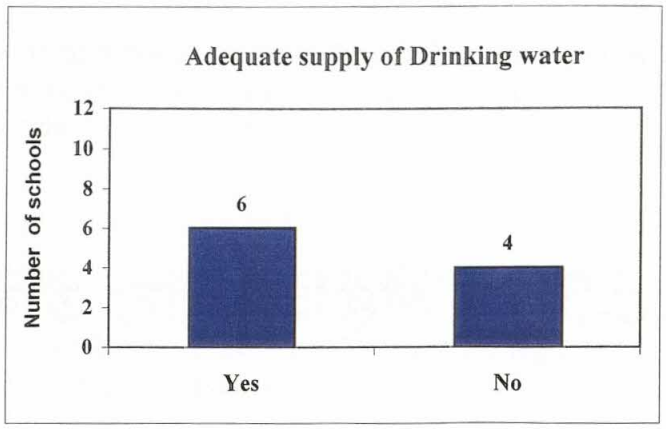
As observed from the survey, the main source of drinking water in the schools is the tube well. Most of the surveyed schools have one tube well catering to its entire student strength. Two schools however could make provisions for Arsenic-free water for its students. As regards its adequacy, Head teachers of 6 schools opine that it is sufficient for the students (Table-H6). But for others, supply of drinking water is just not sufficient. Head teachers say that reports in this regard are lying pending with the Block/S.I. office but no steps have been taken so far.

TABLE–H 6
ADEQUACY OF DRINKING WATER IN SURVEYED SCHOOLS

| Number of schools | Adequate supply of drinking water | |
|---|---|---|
| | Yes | No |
| | 6 | 4 |

**FIREWOOD USED AS FUEL**

FIGURE-6




## Fuel supply

Firewood is used as fuel in all the schools. One school however has made an additional provision of cooking stove for the purpose. Head teachers have reported that fuel supply is adequate and they do not face any problem even during rainy seasons. Firewood is generally stored either in the kitchen or on the verandah of the schools.

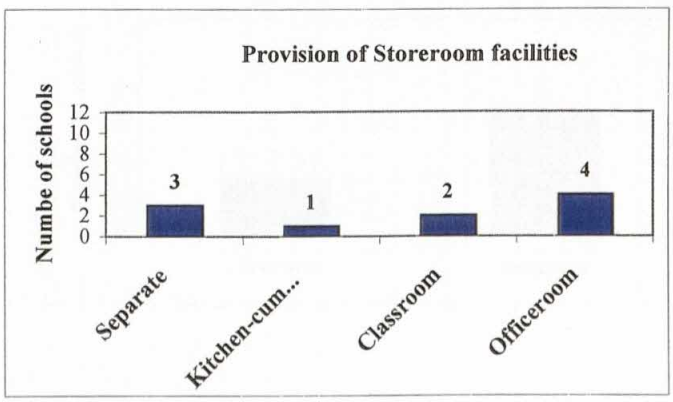
## Storing facilities

Table-H7 shows that 3 schools have provisions for separate storeroom. 4 schools store the cooking ingredients, food grains etc., in the office room and 2 others in the classroom itself. The kitchen is used as the storeroom in the remaining (one) school.

TABLE–H 7
DETAILS ON PROVISION OF STOREROOM FACILITIES IN SURVEYED SCHOOLS

| Number of schools | Nature of Storeroom | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Separate | Kitchen-cum storeroom | Class room | Office room |
| | 3 | 1 | 2 | 4 |

FIGURE-7



# কুকড-মিড-ডে-মিলের সাপ্তাহিক খাদ্য তালিকা

★ তিন দিন সাদা ভাত ও সোয়াবিন-আলু তরকারি।

★ একদিন ডিম-আলু তরকারি ও সাদা ভাত।

★ দুই দিন ডাল-সব্জি তরকারি ও সাদা ভাত।

বি. দ্র. - বর্তমানে ডিম খাওয়ানো যাবে না।

২৯/৭/০৪

ব্লক উন্নয়ন আধিকারিক
নাকাশীপাড়া, নদীয়া

## Cooking devices

Head teachers of all the surveyed schools state that the number of utensils available with their schools for cooking Mid-Day Meal is adequate. Thorough cleaning of all the utensils is done before and after the cooking of the MDM in the school.

## Plates for eating

Students themselves bring plates from home for taking MDM in schools. On the other hand schools also keep provisions for extra plates / leaves etc., as standby if students forget to bring their own plates from home. Head teachers in this context have asserted that teachers regularly inspect the cleanliness of the plates used by the students for partaking the meal.

## Eating area

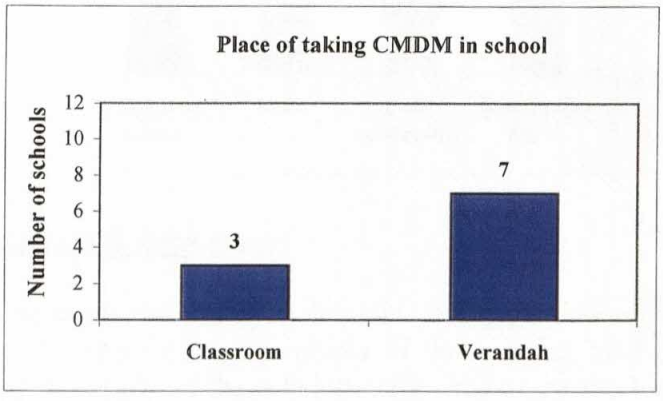
None of the surveyed schools have separate eating places for the students. Students sit either in the classroom or in the verandah of the school (Table-H8). They either sit class wise or all together to have their meal. Head teachers point out that the cooks clean the eating area both before and after the MDM.Disinfectants are often used for cleaning. Sometimes the students even come forward to clean the area before taking the meal.

**TABLE–H 8**

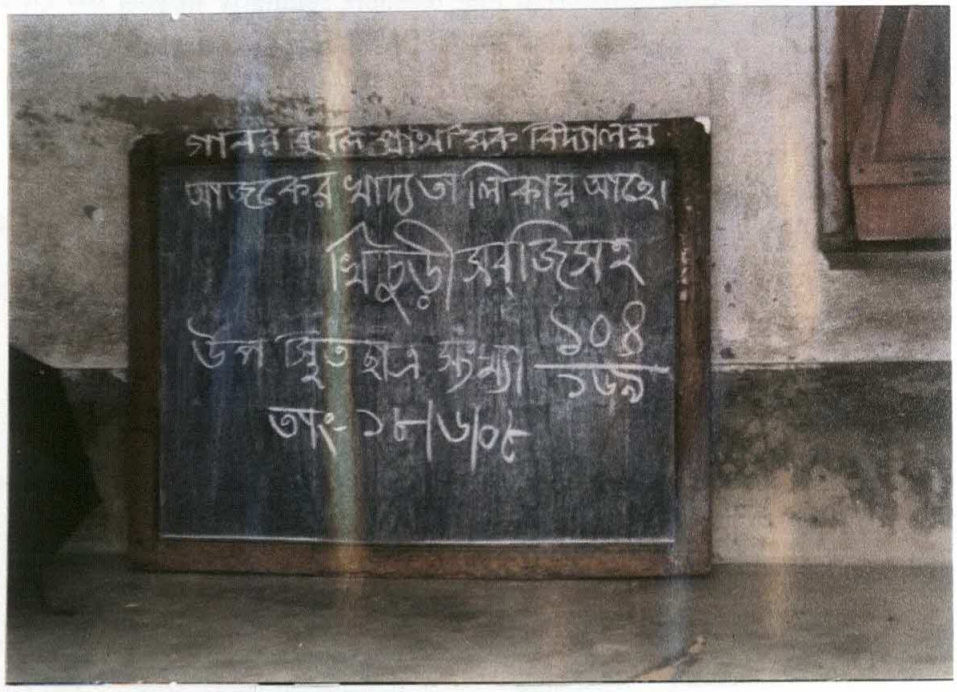
**PLACE & SEATTING ARRANGEMENT OF STUDENTS DURING MDM CONSUMPTION**

| Number of schools | Place of taking MDM in school | | | | Seating arrangement of students | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Classroom | Playground of school | Verandah of school | Separate eating area | Student sit together | Student sit class wise | Boys & Girls sit separately | Other |
| | 3 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 |

**FIGURE-8**




Library




**MID-DAY MEAL MENU**

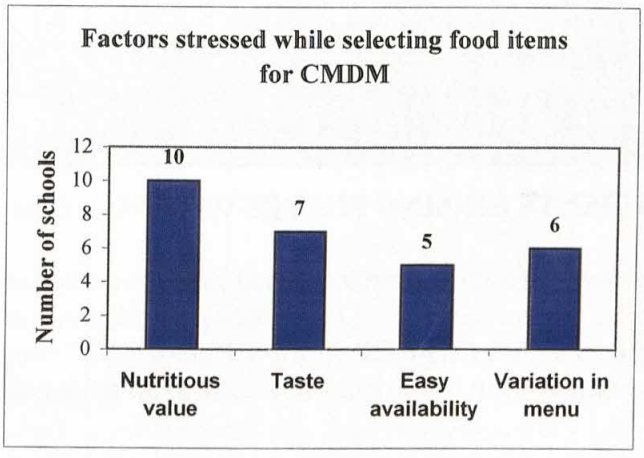
## Menu

Head teachers confirm that the menu for the Mid-Day Meal is decided by bearing in mind the nutrition content of the food items (Table-H9). However, taste of the food, easy availability of the raw materials are also taken into consideration. Menu is varied on a regular basis to sustain the interest of the students. In 6 schools it is the Head teacher who mostly decides on the daily menu. Involvement of Assistant teachers has also been reported in this matter. For remaining 4 schools, menu charts are provided from the Block offices. Menu charts are daily displayed in the school. The number of heads for MDM is decided on the basis of average daily attendance of the students in 9 schools. In one school however, attendance of students on a particular day forms the basis. Food items that are provided to the students are Rice (5 days a week), Lentils (4-5 days a week), Vegetables (~4 days a week), Soyabean (~ 3 days a week). Fish is provided once a week in two schools and 4 schools serve meat once a month to the students. In five schools however, supply of eggs to the students has been temporarily stopped as per order from the Block Development office due to the occurrence of Bird Flu in the region. Instead cottage cheese, and other items made up of milk are provided to the students Teachers taste the prepared food items before they are served to the children.

**TABLE–H 9**
**FACTORS STRESSED WHILE SELECTING FOOD ITEMS FOR MDM**

| Number of schools | Nutritious value | Taste | Easy availability | Variation in menu |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 10 | 7 | 5 | 6 |

**FIGURE-9**




## Supplementation of micronutrients & deworming

Iodized salt is used for cooking in all the surveyed schools. But provision of Vitamin A tablets to the students has been found in only 7 schools. Again supply of de-worming medicine is limited to only 4 primary schools. The frequency of supply of these health supplements by the local health centers is also not regular. Head teachers have suggested that definite responsibility may be formally assigned to the Health Department for regular supply of supplements to the school.



Library

**STUDENTS RINSING PLATES WITH WATER**

TABLE–H 10
DETAILS ON PROVISION OF SUPPLEMENTARY ITEMS, MEDICINES DURING MDM

| Number of schools | Supplementary items provided to students | | | Supply of Vitamin A | | | Supply of De-worming medicine | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Iodized salt | Folic acid | Iron tablet | Yes | No | NR | Yes | No | NR |
| | 10 | 2 | 5 | 7 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 3 |

## Health & Hygiene

Head teachers have not responded clearly regarding the average calorific intake of children and also on the protein content in the food provided to the children per meal. But Head teachers of 4 schools affirm that food charts relating to the above are displayed in the classroom. As regards to the measurement of weight of the students, responses of only 3 schools have been positive. Head teachers of these schools report that weight of the students has definitely increased due to the intake of Mid-Day Meal. Reportedly, health workers carry out check-ups in 8 schools though not in regular intervals. Improvement in the health status of the students has been noticed in the process. The Head teachers confirm that Assistant teachers discuss the qualitative aspects of MDM Scheme with the students during either class hours or the tiffin break.

Head teachers of all the surveyed school state that students daily wash their hands with soap and water before taking Mid-Day Meal. This is strictly ensured by the teachers as well. Teachers inspect the nails of the students every week. Head teachers have also affirmed that the cooks wash their hands and feet before cooking MDM in the school. A certain standard of cleanliness is maintained by them in the kitchen and in the entire process of cooking and serving of the meal.

## Enrolment

Head teachers of 9 surveyed schools report that enrolment of students has increased as a result of the Mid-Day Meal Scheme in the schools (Table-H11). The percentage of increase in enrolment as reported by the Head teachers is between 10% in 2 schools, 10-20% in 3 schools and 20-40% in 1 school. However, Head teachers of three surveyed schools did not respond to this survey query.

TABLE –H 11
IMPACT OF MDMS ON ENROLMENT OF STUDENTS IN SURVEYED SCHOOLS

| Number of schools | Increase in Enrolment | | % of increase in Enrolment (in the 9 schools) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Yes | No | Btw 10% | 10-20% | 20-40% | NR |
| | 9 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 1 | 3 |



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FIGURE-10

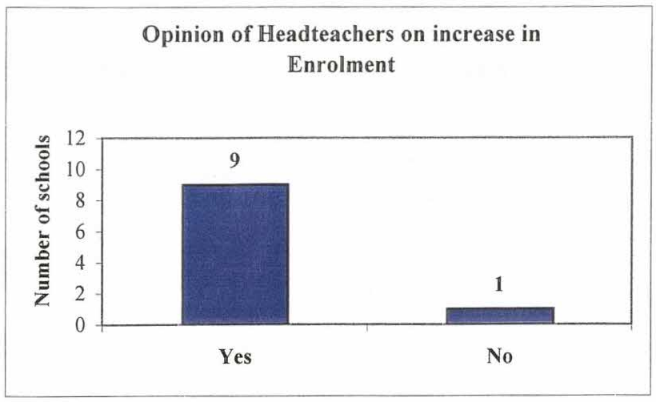



TABLE –H 11.1
DETAILS OF ENROLMENT IN SURVEYED SCHOOLS FROM SCHOOL REGISTER

| School code | Year of inception of MDMS | Year wise enrolment of students | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09* (till June 2008) |
| S1 | 2003 | 353 | 253 | 236 | 302 | 269 | 230 | 154 |
| S2 | 2004 | 350 | 231 | 150 | 121 | 101 | 50 | 190 |
| S3 | 2004 | 184 | 193 | 200 | 197 | 182 | 170 | 171 |
| S4 | 2004 | 221 | 210 | 190 | 195 | 185 | 209 | 205 |
| S5 | 2004 | 280 | 225 | 264 | 270 | 272 | 285 | 240 |
| S6 | 2004 | 273 | 305 | 282 | 286 | 284 | 236 | 205 |
| S7 | 2004 | 317 | 327 | 319 | 339 | 325 | 311 | 260 |
| S8 | 2004 | 517 | 511 | 471 | 460 | 458 | 397 | 322 |
| S9 | 2005 | 410 | 369 | 363 | 380 | 370 | 351 | 372 |
| S10** | 2005 | - | 21 | 73 | 108 | 128 | 122 | 120 |

[* Admission of students for the academic year 2008-09 is still going on in the surveyed schools.]

[** This primary school was set up in the year 2003.]

Following are the graphical representations of the student's enrolment from the register of the surveyed schools

FIGURE-11

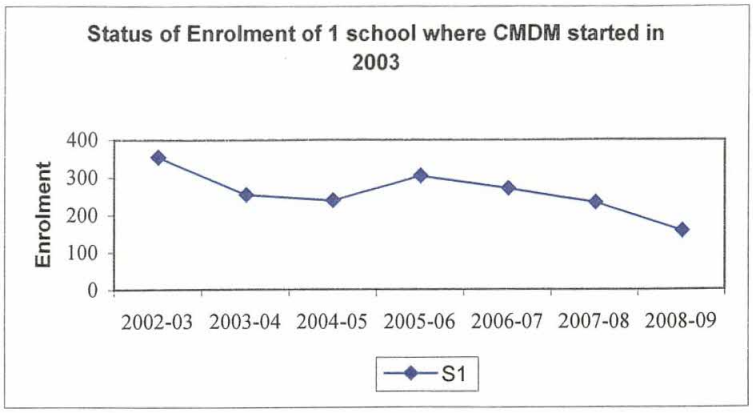



FIGURE-12

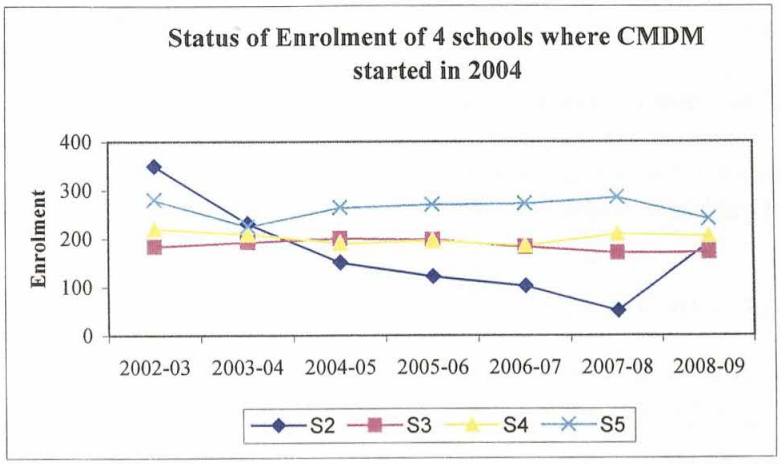



FIGURE-12.1

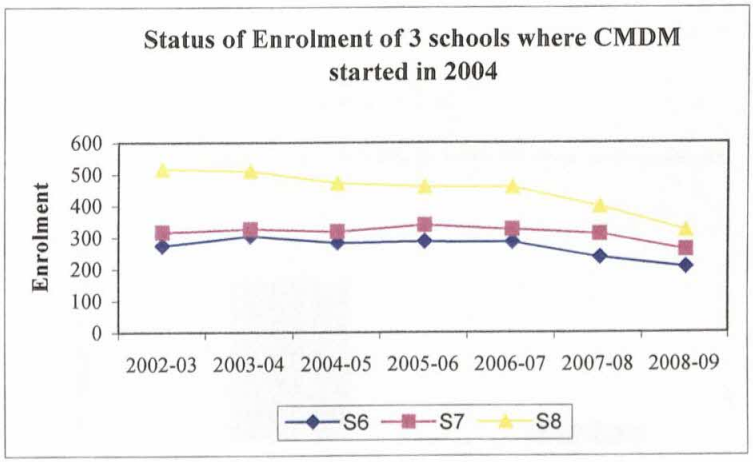
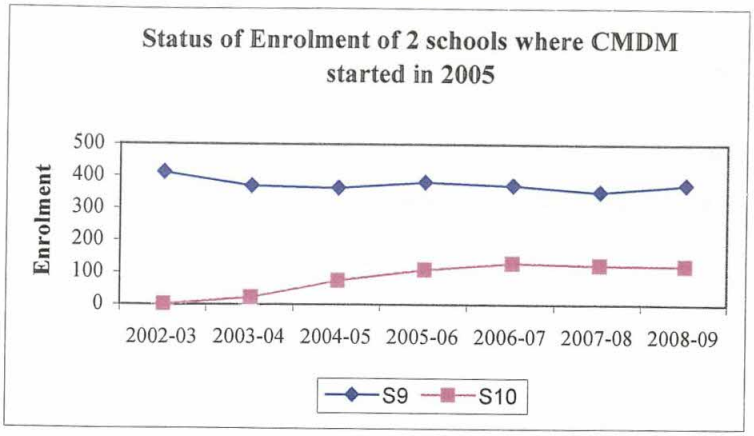


FIGURE-13




## Attendance

Head teachers of 9 surveyed schools have stated that the MDM Scheme has been quite effective in increasing daily attendance of the students (Table-H12). However, one school reported that there has been no change in the attendance rate of the students. The percentage distribution of increase in attendance as reported by the Head teachers is given in the table below. However, Head teachers of three surveyed schools did not respond to this survey query.

Increased inclination of children belonging to economically disadvantaged sections regarding regular school attendance has been noticed due to the implementation of Cooked Mid-Day Scheme in the school.

TABLE –H 12
IMPACT OF MDMS ON ATTENDANCE OF STUDENTS IN SURVEYED SCHOOLS

| Number of schools | Increase in Attendance | | % of increase in Attendance (in the 9 schools) | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Yes | No | Btw 10% | 10-20% | 20-40% | NR |
| | 9 | 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 3 |

FIGURE-14

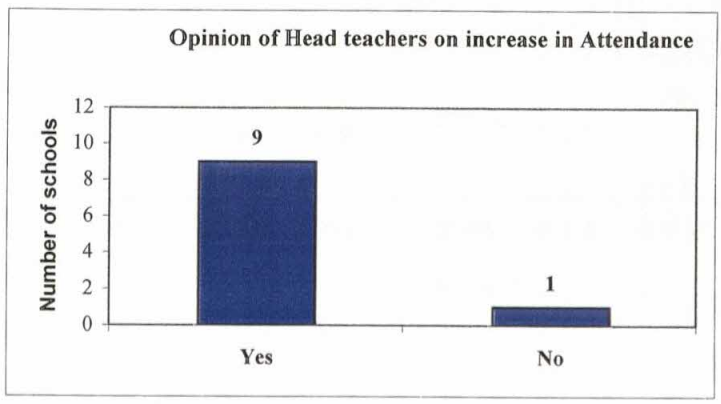


TABLE –H 12.1
DETAILS OF ATTENDANCE IN SURVEYED SCHOOLS FROM SCHOOL REGISTER

| School code | Year of inception of MDMS | Year wise percentage of attendance of students | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 2002-03 | 2003-04 | 2004-05 | 2005-06 | 2006-07 | 2007-08 | 2008-09* (till June 2008) |
| S1 | 2003 | 85 | 85 | 85 | 88 | 85 | 91 | 88 |
| S2 | 2004 | 83 | 88 | 71 | 76 | 71 | 84 | 64 |
| S3 | 2004 | 80 | 82 | 80 | 85 | 84 | 85 | 80 |
| S4 | 2004 | 58 | 63 | 87 | 90 | 90 | 85 | 81 |
| S5 | 2004 | 79 | 81 | 73 | 85 | 92 | 95 | 96 |
| S6 | 2004 | 82 | 79 | 83 | 85 | 87 | 90 | 93 |
| S7 | 2004 | 80 | 85 | 85 | 87 | 87 | 88 | 88 |
| S8 | 2004 | 93 | 90 | 92 | 85 | 85 | 84 | 91 |
| S9 | 2005 | 78 | 82 | 81 | 77 | 83 | 80 | 70 |
| S10 | 2005 | - | 86 | 75 | 94 | 84 | 92 | 94 |

[* Admission of students for the academic year 2008-09 is still going on in the surveyed schools.]

[** This primary school was set up in the year 2003.]

Following are the graphical representations of the attendance of students (in %) from the register of the surveyed schools:

FIGURE-15

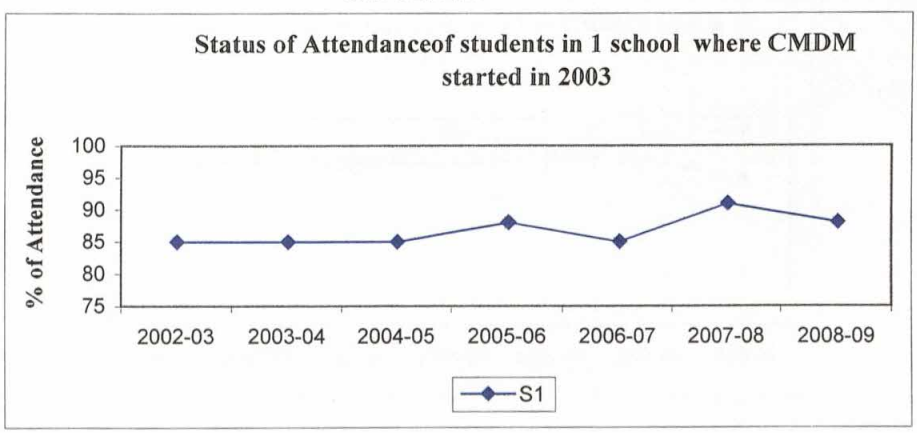


FIGURE-16

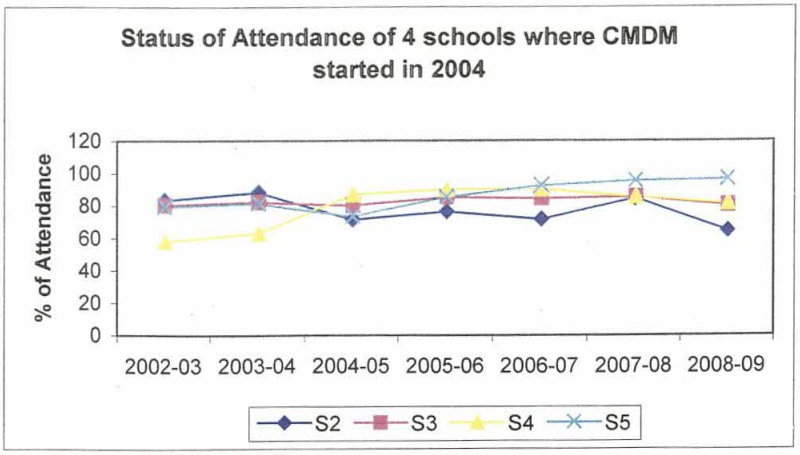



FIGURE-16.1

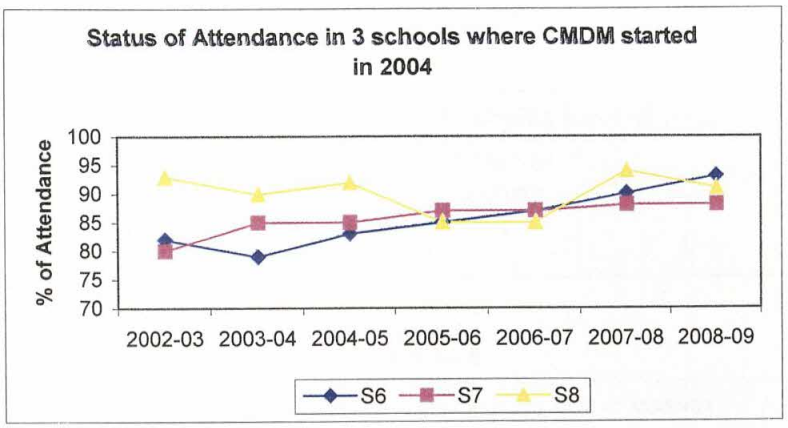
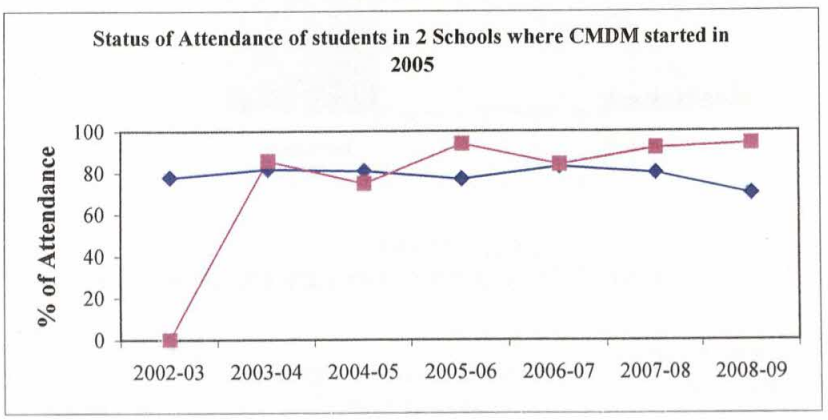



FIGURE-17



## Dropout

The number of dropouts in the surveyed schools is practically nil. Head teacher of one school reported that only one student left the school in 2004-05 and another one in 2005-06. Both of them dropped out in class IV due to the official transfer of their respective parents.

## Teaching-Learning Scenario

Table-H13 shows learning levels of students have improved after the introduction of the CMDM Scheme in the school. Regular attendance in school due to MDM might be the probable reason. Students no longer remain hungry and are able to concentrate more on studies. One school however reported that there has been no such change. In the 10 surveyed schools, classes are held after the students have taken their Mid-Day Meals. The number of classes held in the schools is shown in Table- H13.1. As regards the attendance following Mid-Day Meal, Head teachers of 8 schools say that it is same as the periods preceding the meal. But Head teachers of 2 schools say that students' attendance decreases after MDM as they leave for home.

**TABLE –H 13**
**IMPACT OF MDMS ON TEACHING-LEARNING SCENARIO OF SURVEYED SCHOOLS**

| Number of schools | Change in Learning level of students | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | Improved | Same as before | Deterioration |
| | 9 | 1 | 0 |

**FIGURE-18**

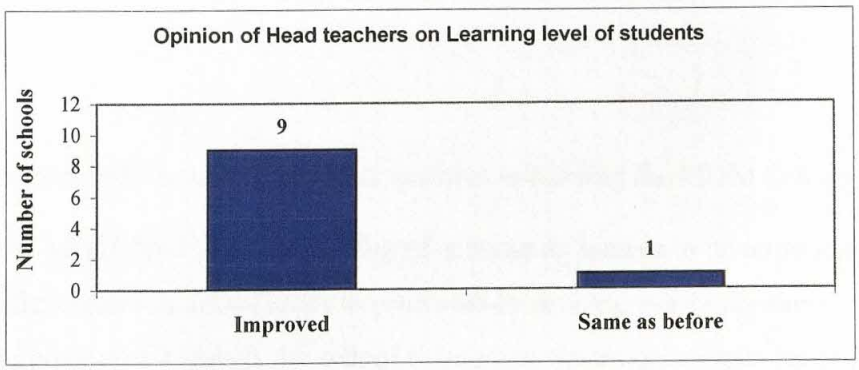



**TABLE –H 13.1**
**DETAILS ON CLASS ROOM TRANSACTIONS AFTER MDMS IN SURVEYED SCHOOLS**

| Number of schools | Number of classes held after MDM is over | | | Attendance of students in class after MDM | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | One | Two | >Two | Same as before | Less |
| | 1 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 2 |

**Precautionary measures**

The Head teachers of the surveyed schools have taken the following measures:

a) Proper storage of food grains and cooking ingredients for making them pest and moisture free. In some schools grain sacks are kept over benches and cooking ingredients are stored in the cabinet of the office room.
b) Thorough cleaning of the eating area, kitchen and the cooking utensils are ensured.
c) Prepared food items are always kept under cover.
d) Utmost care is taken to prevent fire related accidents in the kitchen – a bucket full of water is always kept at hand for the purpose.
e) Strict vigilance is kept over the students so as prevent them from loitering near the kitchen during cooking and serving of the Mid-Day Meal.
f) Students are asked to maintain discipline during the eating process in the school. This is done under the supervision of the Head teachers, Assistant teachers and the cooks.
g) Students are made to stand in queues for fetching water from the tube well.
h) Garbage from cooking (vegetable peels, scales of fish etc.) are taken away by the cooks for feeding the livestock

**Difficulties faced**

Difficulties faced as reported by some of the Head teachers in running the MDM Scheme are listed below:

a) Delay in receipt of MDM fund leads to running of scheme on loan or to its temporary stoppage.
b) Absence of specific kitchen facilities leads to problems in cooking especially during rainy season.
c) Absence of fixed eating area compels the school to conduct the programme in more than one batch leading to the MDM continuing beyond tiffin break
d) Coming of underage children for taking mid-day meal in schools. Villagers/local people /parents protest strongly if MDM is not provided to their underage children.
e) During heavy rainfall, often there is interruption of the CMDM programme as only handful of students comes to attend school.

## 5.2 *Findings from the Community members*

### Nature of involvement

Out of the 11 Community members surveyed, 9 members belong to the Village Education Committee and 2 are from the Mother Teacher Association. Table-C1 shows that the members are mainly involved in the supervision of the Mid-Day Meal programme. Table-C1.1 describes the frequency of supervision of preparation and distribution of MDM in the schools. Daily supervision of the programme is done by 4 of the surveyed members.

Some members are also actually engaged in the cooking and distribution of the meals. Recruitments of cooks, menu selections are also done by some of them. 2 members say that they take part in the maintenance of MDM accounts of the school. Some members (3) provide assistance in purchasing of the cooking ingredients from the market. However, one surveyed VEC member says that he does not in anyway contribute to the running of Mid-Day Meal programme in the school.

**TABLE–C1**
**DETAILS ON INVOLVEMENT OF COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN MDMS IN SCHOOLS**

| Number of members | Supervision | Cooking | Distribution | Recruitment of cook | Maintenance of account | Purchase of ingredients | Procurement of funds | Menu selection | Donation of raw food materials/ ingredients | No link with MDMS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 8 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 1 |

**TABLE–C1.1**
**FREQUENCY OF SUPERVISION**

| Number of members (out of 10) | Daily | Once a Week | Once a Month | Occasionally |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 4 | 4 | 1 | 1 |

### Opinion on timely receipt of Fund and Food grain

4 Community members confirm that schools receive fund on time (Table-C2). Timely supply of food grains to schools is confirmed by 5 members. In case of delay in fund supply, the members purchase materials on loan from the market and keep the programme running.

TABLE–C2
TIMELY SUPPLY OF FUND AND FOODGRAINS

| Number of members (out of 10) | Timely fund supply | | | Timely food grains supply | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Yes | No | NR | Yes | No | NR |
| | 4 | 1 | 5 | 5 | 0 | 5 |

## Opinion on Learning level of the students

Members declare that students have become more eager to go to school. Interest in studies has increased which in turn has resulted in better academic performances. The students no longer skip their classes after taking the meal. Heavy rains even do not deter them from coming to school. One of the members observed that attendance becomes maximum when meat is provided to the students during MDM. Community members report that both enrolment and attendance rate of students have increased as a result of introduction of the CMDM programme in the school.

## Opinion on Health status of the students

8 of the surveyed members state that overall health status of the students has improved (Table-C3). Students have become more energetic and conscious about their personal health and hygiene. However 2 of the surveyed members opine that no such change has been observed in the students.

TABLE–C3
HEALTH STATUS OF STUDENTS

| Number of members (out of 10) | Improved | Same as before | Deterioration |
|---|---|---|---|
| | 8 | 2 | 0 |

## Suggestions

*"Aamra to chai aaro bhalo hoyuk"*-We want this programme to improve. This statement was made by one of the community members during the survey.
Members usually meet once a month to discuss issues related to CMDM and give suggestions for improving the implementation of the programme. More often than not Head teachers of the schools seek advice and cooperation from them. Members also talk about organization of campaign programmes on CMDMS in their respective localities to make villagers, local people, parents and children aware about the benefits of the ongoing scheme.
Some of the suggestions provided by the surveyed community members are given below:
1. Daily supervision of the cooking and distribution of MDM by one VEC member.
2. Prepared food should meet the approval of the students. Instruction may be given to the cooks in this respect.
3. Encouraging all the students to take Mid-Day Meal.
4. Provision of separate kitchen, eating area, storage facilities, safe drinking water, toilet facilities etc.in the school
5. Provision of running water in the kitchen and the toilets of the school.

**MDM COOKS**

### 5.3 *Findings from the Guardians*

**Profile**

Opinions from 12 guardians on CMDM Programme have been obtained as a part of the survey. As regards to their educational background, eight guardians have studied till class-VIII. Three guardians have passed the Higher Secondary examination and the remaining one guardian has completed graduation. Monthly income as declared by the surveyed guardians lies within Rs 5000/-, their profession being agriculture, business, service etc. Interaction with the guardians have revealed that all their primary school going children take food at least three times a day (other than MDM in school). Some even add that children eat four times a day at home. They all take food before coming to school. Guardians say that the children take rice, dal, vegetables, fish (occasional) before coming to school. Some talk about biscuits and puffed rice as well.

**Nature of involvement**

Surveyed guardians have reported that they do not have any kind of complaints about the running of Cooked Mid-Day Meal Programme in the school. However most of them add that their involvement with the school in running the MDM programme is not much. They, to some extent, involve themselves in the discussions on MDM with the teachers, supervise the cooking and distribution process and manage children during MDM. The frequency of supervision during serving of MDM is given in the table below (Table-G1).

**TABLE–G1**
**DETAILS ON GUARDIANS' INVOLVEMENT IN MDM SCHEME**

| Number of guardians | Supervision when cooked MDM is served in school | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Daily | Once a week | Once a month | Occasionally | Never | NR |
| | 5 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 1 |

**Opinion on Cooked Mid-Day Meal Scheme**

All the surveyed guardians affirm that cooked Mid-Day Meal is provided to their children in the schools. Further MDM is provided for 5 days in a week. One guardian however said that MDM is occasionally provided even on Saturdays in the school of his ward. Ten surveyed guardians have confirmed that their children take MDM in the school (Table-G2) and the food provided is nutritive and palatable, meeting the approval of the children. They also add that the food is hygienically prepared in the school. In this context, the guardians point out none of their wards is asked to bring raw vegetables from home. As regards to the quantity of MDM, 11 (out of 12) guardians say that it is adequate. One guardian however insists on larger helpings for children in higher classes (classes III & IV). All the guardians have expressed satisfaction over the implementation of the programme and want the programme to continue.

TABLE–G2
DETAILS ON CHILDREN TAKING MDM

| Number of guardians | Children taking MDM in schools | | | Adequate quantity of MDM provided | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | YES | NO | OCCASIONALLY | YES | NO | NR |
| | 10 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 0 | 1 |

## Opinion on Learning level of the wards

Surveyed guardians report that children have become very keen to go to the schools due to the provision of the Mid-Day Meal. Their concentration levels have increased and are faring better in their studies. Generally two classes are held in the school following Mid-Day Meal. Children can therefore stay longer and attend the classes after the meal period is over.

## Opinion on Health status of the ward

10 out of 12 surveyed guardians have reported that none of their primary school children have fallen sick after consuming MDM in the school and the overall health of their children have improved. However two guardians have mentioned that there has been no change in the health of the children.

## Suggestion

One of the surveyed guardians has suggested that the responsibility of running the MDM Scheme may be given to the Self Help Groups.

**STUDENTS TAKING MDM**

## 5.4 *Findings from the Students*

**Details on provision of Cooked Mid-Day Meal**

A total of 19 students studying in class-IV have been interviewed. All of them say that they attend school daily (including Saturdays) and like doing so. This is because they can study, play and can daily have Mid-Day Meal in the school. Surveyed students say that they get hot cooked meal for 5 days a week in the school. Some even say that occasionally they are given MDM on Saturdays also. Mid-Day Meal is given during tiffin break and they feel that the time given to them for having the meal is sufficient. Rice, dal/lentil and vegetables (leafy and others) are given regularly and soyabeans, eggs & fish are given occasionally. Some say that they get mutton once a month. During special occasions/festivals in the schools, cakes and sweets are provided. Khichuri (single dish meal), chutney and papad form the menu for the students during the winter season. This menu meets approval of the students and all of them say that they like what is served to them as meal. As regards to its quantity, none of the students have responded in the negative and they consume all the food that is given to them.

**Health & Hygiene**

Surveyed students declare that they wash their hands with soap and water before and after the meal and cut their nails every week under the supervision of their mother/guardian. Students have stated that they have not fallen sick on taking MDM in the school. Health check ups (testing of eyes, nose, ear, teeth etc) are carried out in the school by staff from local health centres. The frequency of check ups however varies from school to school. For some school it is done monthly and for others it is done once a year. Health workers make note of the weight of the students and carry out blood tests as well. One of the surveyed schools located near a health centre gets a monthly supply of Vitamin A tablets, de-worming medicines etc. Students even mention that teachers often discuss about nutritive value of food and other health and hygienic aspects during class hours or before consumption of Mid-Day Meal.

For drinking and washing hands, students avail water from the tube well of the school. Some students bring water from home or use water preserved in the school for the above purposes. For drinking water from the tube well they use their palms, eating plates or bottles that they bring from their home. Students do not feel uneasy in bringing plates from home for having MDM. All of the surveyed students affirm that they wash their plates before and after the meal. Students say that teachers supervise them during taking MDM. Cooks are engaged in serving the meal to them. In this respect, help from mothers and guardians have also been mentioned by some of the students.

**Eating area**

Students state that they take MDM either in the verandah of the school or in the classroom. Regarding the seating arrangements, they sit directly on the floor during summer season. During winter they either bring mats/asanas from home or are provided the same from the school. Mostly students sit with their friends for having MDM. They also observe that the cooks regularly clean the eating areas. Sometimes they themselves also provide assistance in cleaning the area.

## Assistance in CMDM programme

Fifteen surveyed students (out of 19) declare that they lend some help in running the MDM programme in the school. It comes in the form of fetching water for cooking and drinking, peeling & cutting vegetables, cleaning of the eating area, carrying food to the eating area for distribution, managing younger students during eating etc. They take up these chores either before the class hours or during their tiffin break.

## Classes following CMDM programme

All of the surveyed students affirm that classes are held following the MDM programme in the school. Generally two classes are held after MDM and all the surveyed students have claimed that they attend these classes. Most of the surveyed students tell that MDM is not given to them if they do not attend classes prior to the MDM programme of the day.

STUDENTS DRINKING WATER FROM TUBEWELL

## Flow Mechanism of Food grains

**District Manager, FCI**

↓

**Distributors of the Public Distribution System (PDS)**

↓

**Dealer of PDS at Block Level**

↓

**Head teachers of the Schools**

## 6. Practices at the District level (as reported from the office of the D.M.)

The Mid-Day Meal Scheme started in the month of July, 2004 in Nadia district of West Bengal. Initially 220 primary schools (including 55 SSKs) over 17 Blocks were covered. The total number of primary students benefiting from the Scheme was estimated at 38,551 (22,359 boys & 16,192 girls). In the current year (2008-09), 3830 primary schools have been covered over the same 17 Blocks. Number of students availing the CMDM Scheme has been estimated at 6,18,963 (3,71,377 boys & 2,47,586 girls). 41 Upper Primary schools in the single Educationally Backward Block (EBB) covering 18,666 students have so far been added to the Scheme in the current year (2008).

Mid-Day Meal is given 5 days a week in the primary schools of the district. It is also provided to the students during natural calamities. Total Budgetary allocation of MDM Scheme in the current year has been Rs 7,30,13,097/-. This amount provides for all eligible students at the rate of Rs 2.50/- per student per day. This amount also includes all the grants made to the schools for building infrastructure (such as kitchens, etc), procurement of cooking utensils etc.

**MDM fund**

Funds for MDMS reach the schools every month in advance to ensure smooth implementation of the programme. Head teachers are requested to attend meetings in the office of the B.D.O/S.D.O. on a fixed date of a month with Statement of Expenditures and Utilization Certificates (UCs) of the preceding month. UCs are submitted to the B.D.O.s/S.D.O.s, who in turn submit the compiled and itemized UC to the District Magistrate, Nadia. In the meeting they explain their performances and difficulties and receive their respective MDM-related A/C Payee cheques for the following month. Following deposition of the funds in the Blocks' Savings Accounts, the B.D.O.s issue cheques in favour of the schools. S.D.O.s do the same for Municipalities and Notified Area Authorities (NAA).

**Food grains**

The schools submit requisition requests for food grains to the Block Development Offices/Municipalities/NAA during monthly meetings with Head teachers and S.I of the schools. The Block Development Officer and the Storing Agent have the responsibility of reaching the food grains to the schools. On receiving the allotment, B.D.Os /S.D.Os arrange to collect the R.O. (Release Order) from the FCI and then endorse the same in favour of the Storing Agent. The representative of the B.D.O and the Storing Agent then lift the allotted grain from the FCI and store the same in the godown of the Storing Agent. Finally the Carrying Agent sends the grains to the schools as per sub-allotment order of the B.D.O. /S.D.O. Transportation cost is paid to the Storing and Carrying Agents at rates already fixed by the District Magistrate depending upon the distance of a school from the godown of the agent. The maximum rate of transportation charge from the FCI godown to the godown of the Storing Agent is Rs. 40/- per quintal and from there to school it is Rs. 10/-per quintal. In case of any shortfall or excess of food grains, the matter is brought to the notice of the concerned B.D.O. /S.D.O. who in turn takes suitable measures for adjustment.

**INSPECTION OF PREPARED FOOD ITEMS**

## Monitoring

The District Planning Officer (D.P.L.O.) has been designated as the nodal officer for implementation of the CMDM Programme. The District Magistrate (D.M.) has issued guidelines for monitoring of the programme under which all officers from the district to the block levels are supposed to undertake school visits. The nodal officer also deputes personnel from his end for monitoring the programme. Accordingly, different officials from the district to block levels carry out school inspections every month. A.I. & S.I. of schools carry out regular inspections for this purpose.

Committees have been constituted from the school to district levels involving the parents of the students, local people, Assistant teachers, Panchayat functionaries and Government officials to sort out problems and settle local issues for effective implementation of the programme.

Inspection of the quality of food is made at different levels by making surprise visit to the schools and checking the quality of the cooking ingredient and the prepared food. Initially it is done by School Level Monitoring Committees and then S.I of schools, block level officials, S.D.O. and finally district level officials apart from Panchayat functionaries.

Orientation programmes/meetings are conducted with community members, parents etc., both at the block and the school levels every month. During the academic year 2007-08, three district level meetings were conducted with the S.D.O.s, B.D.O.s, Savapati of Panchayat Samitis and Karmadhyakshas of Education Standing Committee for monitoring the CMDM programme. The Savadhipati and the District Magistrate attended the meetings.

Measures have been initiated at the Government level to provide dedicated manpower for monitoring and supervision of the programme.

For effective implementation of the CMDM programme, the following officers are responsible for monitoring all aspects through the monthly inspection of schools as per the following schedule:

1. Sub-Divisional Officers/Deputy Magistrates: 2 schools
2. Block Development Officers/Jt. B.D.O.: 4 schools
3. Sub-Inspector of Schools: 10 schools
4. Block Level Nodal Officer involved in CMDM implementation: 5 schools

Sub-Inspector of schools verifies and countersigns the bills submitted by the school authorities. They attend monthly meetings and review the implementation of the CMDM Programme.

## Grants

Out of a total of 3830 primary schools in the district, 48% have received grants for construction of kitchen-cum-store, purchase of utensils etc.

## Infrastructure

Most of the schools in the district have to depend on only one or two tube wells for obtaining water for drinking, cooking, washing etc. Schools do not even possess separate eating areas for taking MDM. When the number of students in a school exceeds 500 it is hardly possible to adopt proper sanitation measures and to complete distribution of meals within the scheduled lunch hour. At present firewood is used as fuel. The smoke thus created often causes inconvenience to the children. LPG connection is required to be given to all the schools. The above-mentioned problems have been brought to the notice of the State Government.

Steps have been taken to ensure proper monitoring of the system. Separate kitchen-cum-stores have been set up in some schools from available funds. Proposals for providing running water with sufficient number of taps have been sent to Sarba Shiksha Mission (S.S.M.).

## Guideline (vide Memo No. 1590(27)/Dev dated 26 October 2007 – copy enclosed)

Following several discussions at the district level, uniform guidelines for the entire district were issued from the office of the District Magistrate for smooth and effective implementation of the Cooked Mid-Day Meal Programme.

The memo made the following policy statements:

1.Fund for implementation of the CMDM Programme should be released in advance within last week of every month for the next month.

2.All funds must be released either by transfer to the Bank Account or by A/C Payee cheques in favour of

i) A/C of the Village Education Committee or
ii) Existing A/C of the school or
iii) A/C of SHG if the Head master is added as joint signatory. A/C so selected by the Head master, should be operated by the Teacher-in-Charge of CMDM jointly with other signatory.

3.Fixed days of every month should be earmarked for collection of reports, collection of cheques and orders from Block/Municipality etc. 2-3 days may be fixed CRC-wise (Circle Level Resource Centre) for this purpose.

4.Regular meetings of the Mid-Day Meal Committee must be ensured. Jt. B.D.O. and Sub-Inspector of schools must remain present in these meetings.

5. Copies of sub-allotment orders must be given to the S.I. of schools and the Chairman of VECs.

6. While making sub-allotments care should be taken to adjust balance amount of funds and food grains available with the school. It may be done at least once in every quarter.

**Committees**

Further, according to the memo referred to above, committees at different levels are currently monitoring the CMDM Scheme. Some of their assigned functions are listed in the table below:

| Sl. No. | Name of the committee | Number of scheduled meetings on CMDM Programme | Functions |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | School Level Monitoring Committee | Four times a month | 1.Supervision and monitoring (cleanliness, material procurement, information display etc.,)<br>2.Preparation & submission of monthly reports and UCs |
| 2. | Block Level /Municipality /NAA Level Monitoring Committee | Twice a month | 1.Supervision and monitoring, field inspection<br>2.Guidance<br>3.Impact assessment and corrective measures<br>4.Mobilization of community support<br>4.Inspection of day-wise attendance of students<br>5.Ensure UC and report submission |
| 3. | District Level Monitoring Committee | Once a month | Overall management and implementation of the CMDM Programme |

[The contents of the report from the office of D.M. have been rearranged but otherwise reproduced practically verbatim in this section]

SURVEYED SCHOOL

## 7. Practices at the School level (as reported by some of the Head teachers/Assistant teachers)

1. One of the surveyed schools has been found to have its own kitchen garden where cauliflower, cabbage, gourd, pumpkin, beans and other leafy vegetables etc., are grown. An Assistant teacher of the school has voluntarily taken up the responsibility of the entire farming process. Students are engaged every day in watering the vegetable plots. The school has also dug out a pond where cultivation of fish such as Rohu, Silver Carp, Mrigel etc, is undertaken. Students are thus provided with varied fresh vegetables and fish during MDM.This enhances the nutritive value of the meal. Cooking wastes (vegetable peels, starch-water.etc,) are disposed off in the pond, which in turn forms the feed for the fishes. Support of VEC members is obtained in nurturing and maintenance of the vegetables plots and the pond. The school even provides its produced vegetables to other nearby schools. To lift the spirit, students are asked by the teachers to recite poems (based on subjects like Mid-Day Meal, Education for All etc.,) before taking the meal. These poems are composed by the Assistant Teachers of the school.

2.***"Bacchara boi aane na kintu thala aane"*** – Students do not bring books but bring plates to school.
This statement was made by an Assistant teacher of one of the surveyed schools. Each and every classrooms of this school has fans (unlike some other surveyed schools), the electricity bill of which is paid by the teachers themselves.

3.Teachers take initiatives in making guardians/parents aware about the usefulness of the CMDM Programme.Teachers also ensure that each and every student present in the school takes MDM.Discussions are also held with them on the nutritive aspects of the food. Teachers even help the students in taking MDM by providing assistance in their eating (removal of bones from the fish etc.,). Electricity bills are paid from the fund accumulated from the teachers, the provision of fans, lights etc., has been made by the VEC members.

4.One of the surveyed schools has made arrangements for extra plates. Students are provided these plates when they forget to bring their own plates from home. In this way, the school ensures that all students present, take MDM in the school.

5.Cooks often do not get their salary every month due to irregular supply of MDM fund to the schools. Head teachers and Assistant teachers make personal contribution for regularizing their payment.

6.One of the surveyed schools has dug out a pit in its premise for disposing wastes from cooking MDM.

## 8. Conclusion

It is observed from the study that the Cooked Mid-Day Meal Programme in the district is being run satisfactorily with well-designed plan, administrative support and involvement of the community. However the following standout as desirable practices matching the need of the particular school:

a) Attempt to become self reliant in the supply of vegetables and fish.

b) Involvement of Head teachers/Assistant teachers and parents/guardians in the total process from procuring cooking ingredients to the serving of the meals.

c) Holding periodical discussions with all concerned to identify problems/bottlenecks and evolve solutions.

d) Continuation of CMDM programme in case of delayed receipt of grant with teacher's own contribution or arranging procurement on credit.

e) Providing collective leadership in the effective running of the programme, which ultimately reflects commitment to the cause.

# ABBREVIATIONS

| | |
|---|---|
| A.D.I | Additional District Inspector |
| A.D.M. | Additional District Magistrate |
| AIE | Alternative Innovative Education |
| A.I. | Assistant Inspector |
| AWP&B | Annual Work Plan & Budget |
| BDO | Block Development Officer |
| CMDMS | Cooked Mid-Day Meal Scheme |
| Cr | Crore |
| D.I | District Inspector |
| DIET | District Institute of Educational Training |
| D.P.L.O | District Planning Officer |
| D.P.S.C | District Primary School Council |
| EBB | Education Backward Block |
| FCI | Food Corporation of India |
| GOI | Government of India |
| GOWB | Government of West Bengal |
| LPG | Liquid Petroleum Gas |
| PTA | Parent Teacher Association |
| MDMS | Mid-Day Meal Scheme |
| MHRD | Ministry of Human Resource Development |
| MIS | Management Information System |
| Mt | Metric ton |
| MSK | Madhyamik Shiksha Kendra |
| MTA | Mother Teacher Association |
| NAA | Notified Area Authorities |
| NR | No Response |
| NP-NSPE | National Programme Of Nutritional Support to Primary Education |
| NUEPA | National University of Educational Planning and Administration |
| PBSSM | Paschim Banga Sarva Shiksha Mission |
| R.O. | Release Order |
| SHG | Self Help Group |
| SDO | Sub-Divisional Officer |
| S.I. | Sub-Inspector |
| SSK | Shishu Shiksha Kendra |
| S.S.M | Sarva Shiksha Mission |
| VEC | Village Education Committee |

ANNEXURE-I

**Government of West Bengal**
**Office of the District Magistrate, Nadia**
**Development & Planning Section.**

**Memo. No.** 1590(27)/**Dev** **Dated Krishnagar, the** 26/10/2007.

From : The District Magistrate
Nadia

To :1-17. The Block Development Officer
_____ Block.
18-27. The Chairman
_____ Municipality / N.A.A

Sub : *Guideline for implementation of Cooked Mid-Day Meal Programme*

Some questions have been raised in the matter of policies being followed in the district for implementation of Cooked Mid-Day Meal Programme. Reports have been received that in some blocks and municipalities fund and food grains are being sub-allotted in advance and in case of the others sub-allotment is being made on expiry of a month. The necessity of formation of a uniform guideline for the entire district has been felt and after careful consideration of all the aspects, the following policies have been framed for trouble free, smooth and effective implementation of the programme.

(i) Fund for implementation of CMDM Programme should be released in advance within last week of every month for the next month.

(ii) All funds must be released either by transfer to the Bank Account or by A/C Payee Cheques in favour of
   i. A/C of the Village Education Committee or
   ii. Existing A/C of the school or
   iii. A/C of SHG if the Headmaster is added as joint signatory. A/C so selected by the Headmaster, should be operated by the Teacher-in-Charge of CMDM jointly with the other signatory.

(iii) Fixed days of every month should be earmarked for collection of reports, collection of cheques and orders from Block/ Municipality etc. 2-3 days may be fixed CRC-wise for this purpose.

(iv) Regular meetings of Mid-Day Meal Committee must be ensured. Jt. BDO and Sub-Inspector of Schools must remain present in these meetings.

(v) Copies of sub-allotment orders must be given to the Sub-Inspector of Schools and the Chairmen of VECs.

(vi) While making sub-allotments care should be taken to adjust balance amount of funds and food-grains available with the school. It may be done at least once in every quarter.

It has also been observed that committees constituted at different levels for monitoring of Cooked Mid-Day Meal Programme do not function satisfactorily. Meetings of School Level Monitoring Committee, G.P./ Ward under Municipality/NAA Level Monitoring Committee, Block Level / Municipality/NAA Level Monitoring Committee and even the District Level Monitoring Committee are not held regularly. Formation of each of the Committees is given below along with the assigned functions.

**A. School Level Monitoring Committee will be constituted with the following members** :

| | |
|---|---|
| 1) P.S/G.P Member of the local area | ..... Chairman |
| 2) Head of the Institution | ..... Member |
| 3) One Member of the V.E.C. | ..... Member |
| 4) One Member of M.T.A. | ..... Member |
| 5) One Resource Teacher | ..... Member |

The School Level Monitoring Committees will meet every week for the purpose of supervision and monitoring. The primary task of the committee will be to help smooth running of the programme. The MTA will ensure that one of the Guardians visits the school at least once in a week.

The Committee will also look into the matter of preparation of monthly reports and Utilization Certificates and submission there of. They must look into the following points :

i) Cleanliness in cooking, serving and consumption in CMDM.
ii) Timely procurement of ingredients, fuel etc. of good quality.
iii) Display of information in the Notice Board indicating quantity of ***food grains received, quantity of food grains utilized, number of students present on that day and daily menu.***

**B. Block Level / Municipality / NAA Level Monitoring Committee comprises of the following members** :

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| i) | Savapati, Panchayat Samity/ Chairman, Municipality | : Chairman |
| ii) | B.D.O | : Executive Chairman |
| iii) | Inspector, Food & Supplies | : Member |
| iv) | BMOH / M.O | : Member |
| vi) | CDPO | : Member |
| vii) | S.I. of Schools | : Member |

The Block Level Committee will meet fortnightly for the purpose of supervision and monitoring. This committee will generally perform the following functions:

i) Guide various implementing agencies on the guidelines of Govt. of India/West Bengal.
ii) Monitor programme implementation assessing its impact and taking corrective steps.
iii) Mobilizing community support and promoting public-private partnership for the programme.

iv) Attendance of the students day-wise to be inspected twice in a month.
v) Physical monitoring through field inspection.
vi) Pursue and ensure submission of U.C. & various reports.

**C. District Level Monitoring Committee will consist of the following members** :

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| i) | Savadhipati, Nadia Zilla Parishad | | : Chairman |
| ii) | District Magistrate, Nadia | | : Executive Chairman |
| ii) | Biswanath Ghosh, MLA | Nominated | : Member |
| iii) | Kallol Khan, MLA | by the MIC, SED | : Member |
| iv) | ADM (Dev.) | | : Member |
| v) | District Planning Officer | | : Convenor |
| vi) | D.I. of Schools (Primary/Secondary) | | : Member |
| vii) | District Controller (F & S) | | : Member |
| viii) | District Manager of F.C.I | | : Member |
| ix) | Chief Medical Officer of Health | | : Member |

Each Block Development Officer & Chairman of Municipality/NAA of this district shall furnish the following reports and returns to the District Magistrate (Development & Planning Section for Nadia district).

1) Report of Monthly off take of food grains (within 10th of the following month) In Form-1
2) Quarterly progress report under NP-NSPE, 2006 (Mid-day-Meal) in Form 3 within 15 days of the end of the quarter.
3) Submission of U.C. in respect of food grains (in Form-4) and Fund (in Form-5) within 15th April of the following year.
4) Request for reimbursement of expenditure incurred on transport of food grains under NP-NSPE, 2006 (in Form-2) quarterly.

For effective implementation of the programme the following officers dealing the Mid-day-Meal Programme will monitor all aspects through monthly inspection of schools as per schedule given below.

1) Sub-Divisional Officers / Dy. Magistrates .... 2 Schools
2) Block Development Officers / Jt. BDO .... 4
3) Sub-Inspector of Schools .... 10
4) Block Level Nodal Officer involved in CMDM implementation .... 5

It is the responsibility of the Sub-Inspector of Schools to verify the bills submitted by the school authorities and countersign it. They shall attend monthly meetings and review implementation of CMDM programme.

Sd/-
**District Magistrate**
**Nadia**

**Memo. No.** 1590(27)/1(31) **/Dev.** **Dated** 26/10/**2007**

Copy forwarded for information and taking necessary action to:

1. The Chairman, District Primary School Council, Nadia, Krishnagar with request to issue necessary instructions to the Sub-Inspector of School for implementation, supervision & monitoring of CMDM Programme.
2. The Additional District Magistrate (Dev.), Nadia
3-6. The Sub-Divisional Officer, Sadar/ Ranaghat / Kalyani / Tehatta Sub Division, Nadia.
7-8. Sri Biswanath Ghosh / Sri Kallol Khan, MLA
9-25. The Savapati, _____ Panchayat Samity.
26-27. The District Inspector of Schools, Secondary / Primary, Nadia, Krishnagar.
28. The District Controller (F & S), Nadia.
29. The District Manager of F.C.I, Nadia
30. The Chief Medical Officer of Health, Nadia
31. C.A. to the Sabhadhipati, Nadia Zilla Parishad.

**For District Magistrate**
**Nadia**

ANNEXURE-2

# বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সর্বশিক্ষা অভিযানের অন্যতম গুরুত্বপূর্ণ অংশ হচ্ছে স্কুল চলো কর্মসূচী । মূল উদ্দেশ্য - সমস্ত শিশুদের নিয়মিত স্কুলমুখী করা এবং শারীরিক পুষ্টি বৃদ্ধি করা । এই লক্ষ্যকে সামনে রেখে সরকার মিড-ডে-মিল চালু করেছেন । কিন্তু বেশ কিছু স্কুল পরিদর্শন করে দেখা গেছে, শিশুদের নিয়মিত উপস্থিতি এবং মিড-ডে মিলের মান আশানুরূপ নয় । এই ব্লকের সমস্ত বিদ্যালয়ে, শিশু শিক্ষা কেন্দ্রে সুষ্ঠুভাবে যাতে মিড-ডে-মিল পরিবেশিত হয়, তার জন্য সমস্ত বিদ্যালয়ের শিক্ষক, শিক্ষিকা, সহায়িকা ও ডি.ই.সি কমিটিকে ইতিবাচক পদক্ষেপ গ্রহণের অনুরোধ জানানো হচ্ছে । গত ০৪/০৪/২০০৭ তারিখের সভায় সিদ্ধান্ত অনুসারে মিড-ডে-মিল দেখভাল ও তদারকির জন্য সরকারী কর্মচারী, জন-প্রতিনিধি ও শিক্ষক প্রতিনিধির সমন্বয়ে একটি মিড-ডে-মিল মনিটরিং কমিটি গঠন করা হয়েছে ।

একই ধরনের খাবার সমস্ত স্কুলে, শিশু শিক্ষা কেন্দ্রে পরিবেশনার জন্য নিম্নলিখিত তালিকাটি অনুসরণ করতে অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে ।

ক) মাসে ২ ( দুই ) দিন মাংস ও ২ ( দুই ) দিন ডিম ।
খ) মাসে ৪ ( চার ) দিন সোয়াবিনের তরকারী ।
গ) অন্যান্য দিনগুলিতে ডাল, সব্জি এবং এক্ষেত্রে ছাত্রপিছু ন্যূনতম ২০ গ্রাম ডাল দেওয়া সুনিশ্চিত করতে হবে ।
ঘ) খাবার রান্না ও পরিবেশনার ক্ষেত্রে পরিস্কার পরিচ্ছন্নতা বজায় রাখতে হবে ।
ঙ) মিড-ডে-মিল সংক্রান্ত কোন জটিলতা হলে দ্রুততার সাথে উক্ত কমিটির সাহায্য নিতে অনুরোধ করা হচ্ছে ।

## মাংস খাওয়ানোর নির্দিষ্ট দিন

১) বেলপুকুর অঞ্চলে - সোমবার ।
২) সাধনপাড়া - ১ অঞ্চলে - মঙ্গলবার ।
৩) সাধনপাড়া - ২ অঞ্চলে - মঙ্গলবার ।
৪) ধুবুলিয়া - ১ অঞ্চলে - বুধবার ।
৫) ধুবুলিয়া - ২ অঞ্চলে - বুধবার ।
৬) নওপাড়া - ১ অঞ্চলে - শুক্রবার ।
৭) নওপাড়া - ২ অঞ্চলে - শুক্রবার ।

মিড-ডে মিলের ইউ.সি-এর সাথে প্রতি মাসে দিনভিত্তিক খরচের হিসাব জমা দেওয়ার জন্য অনুরোধ জানানো হচ্ছে ।

স্বাক্ষর
সুদর্শন হালদার
সভাপতি
কৃষ্ণনগর - ২ প: স:

স্বাক্ষর
সুদীপ সরকার
সমষ্টি উন্নয়ন আধিকারিক
কৃষ্ণনগর - ২

সর্বশিক্ষা মিশন
সবার শিক্ষা সবার উন্নতি